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★ The House Assassinations Committee continues to waste the taxpayers' money. Last week, it had as a star witness James Earl Ray, who was sentenced to 99 years in prison after pleading guilty to the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King. Before the committee, however, Ray, as he has for some time now, maintained he never shot King, despite the fact the murder weapon was covered with Ray's fingerprints.

★ Playboy magazine convinced Ray to take a polygraph in June of last year, when he also denied killing King. The polygraph examiner, however, informed Playboy that Ray was "not telling the truth" when he gave that response.

★ There's another interesting fact about Ray: His counsel is radical leftist lawyer Mark Lane. Lane, who has been affiliated with a number of officially cited Communist fronts in the past, has in recent years been tossing wild charges at the CIA and the FBI. His client, Ray, has suggested both may be involved in the King slaying. (E) DE. CISTRY

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